Wilson River language

The **Wilson River language** is an Australian Aboriginal language of the Karnic family. It was spoken by several peoples along the Wilson River in Queensland. Of these, the Wangkumara and Galali may have migrated from the Bulloo River and abandoned their language when they arrived. (See Bulloo River language.)

Contents

Speakers

Varieties

Features

References

External links

Speakers

In 1981, the language was still spoken by four members of the Wangkumara community around Cooper Creek, the Thomson River, and the Warry Warry Creek, the town of Eromanga and the Nuccundra.[3] It appears to have gone extinct by 2005.[1]

Varieties

Dixon (2002) considers Punthamara to be a dialect of Wangkumara, Bowern (2001) as very close. Bowern says that Ngandangara also appears to have been "very close", although data is too poor for a proper classification.[4] Karenggapa is either a dialect or an alternative name.[5] (McDonald & Wurm 1979) note that Wilson River Galali, what they call "Waŋkumara (Gaḻali)", is very close to modern Waŋkumara and Bundamara.

Breen (1967) states that the (Karnic) speech of the groups along the Wilson River are essentially identical. These include Bundhamara, Gungadudji, 'Modern' Wanggumara and Ngandangura. For instance, that Gungadidji is 'almost identical to Punthamara and modern Wangkumara'. Nonetheless, these language varieties have been assigned individual ISO codes.

Mambangura (the language of the Thereila) may have belonged as well. At least, the Yandruwandha term *Palpakunu* covered it as well as the other Wilson River dialects.

A language labeled "Wonkomarra" in Myles (1886) is a different language from modern Wangkumara, and may be a variety of Kalali.

Features

Wilson River	
Palpakunu	
Native to	Australia
Region	Wilson River (Queensland)
Ethnicity	Wongkumara, Ngandangara, Punthamara, Kungadutji, ?Thereila
Extinct	probably by 2005[1]
Language family	Pama–Nyungan ■ Karnic 　■ Ngura 　　■ **Wilson River**
Dialects	Punthamara (Bundhamara)[2] Ngandangara (Yarumarra, Eromarra) 'Modern' Wangkumara Wangkumara (Galali) Gungadidji ?Mambangura/Thereila
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: xpt – Punthamara ntg – Ngantangarra gdt – Kungardutyi xwk – Wangkumara eaa – Karenggapa
Glottolog	*None*
AIATSIS[1]	L30 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L30) Ng L26 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L26) Pu L56 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L56) Ya L68 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L68) 'Mo Wangkumara, D71 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/la

Wangkumara is notable for being a language with a tripartite verbal alignment. Wurm's *Wankamara (Galali)* is entirely suffixing and morphologically fairly simple having the following word classes: nominal (noun and pronoun), verb, particle, and interjection. The word order is random and free. The phonemes consist of three vowels and 26 consonants.

nguage/D71) Galali (McDonald & Wurm's Waŋkumara (Gaḻali)), L16 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L16) Gu L15 Karenggapa

References

1. L30 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L30) Ngandangara at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (see the info box for additional links)
2. RMW Dixon (2002), *Australian Languages: Their Nature and Development*, p xxxvii
3. Ritchie, John; Cunneen, Christopher (1996). "Dixon, Lorna Rose (1917? - 1976)" (http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A140009b.htm). *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Retrieved 23 July 2007.
4. Bowern, Claire (2001). "Karnic classification revisited". In J Simpson; et al. (eds.). *Forty years on* (https://yale.academia.edu/ClaireBowern/Papers/1002425/Karnic_classification_revisited). Canberra Pacific Linguistics. pp. 245–260. Archived (https://archive.today/20120805212925/http://yale.academia.edu/ClaireBowern/Papers/1002425/Karnic_classification_revisited) from the original on 5 August 2012.
5. L15 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/L15) Karenggapa at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

External links

- Verb compounding in central Australian languages. (http://www.latrobe.edu.au/linguistics/LaTrobePapersinLinguistics/Vol%2002/04Austin.pdf)
- Bibliography of Bundhamara people and language resources (http://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/collections/language_bibs/bundhamara.pdf), at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies